

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,011,525 to Randle et al. (hereinafter “Randle”) in view of United States Patent No. 5,660,210 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter “Ikeda”). Claims 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Randle et al. in view of Ikeda and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,371,153 to Kuribayashi et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In the Decision on Appeal, the Board indicated that it did not find one of Applicant’s arguments persuasive because: (a) the argument was not supported by sufficient evidence, such as an expert declaration; (b) Applicant’s argument relied upon an assumption, without providing the basis for the assumption; and (c) Applicant did not provide a basis for comparing the individual threads of Ikeda with the twisted cords of Claim 1. *See* Decision on Appeal, page 7, lines 5-17. Briefly, the argument requiring additional evidence of (a)-(c) was made on page 4 of Applicant’s Reply Brief, and related to converting Ikeda’s intermediate elongation of $2.7 \pm 1.0 \%$ at a load of 3 g/d to an intermediate elongation at the claimed load of 0.85cN/dtex, and asserting that when converted to the same load and units, the intermediate elongation of Ikeda would be $0.6 \pm 0.2 \%$ at a load of 0.85 cN/dtex, which is much lower than the claimed value of 2.2 to 5%. The argument also continued with the assertion that the Ikeda’s intermediate elongation value of $0.6 \pm 0.2 \%$ is so low that it can never be possible to obtain the vibration-preventive result or the high durability attainable by the power steering hose of Claim 1, which includes the claimed value of 2.2 to 5%.

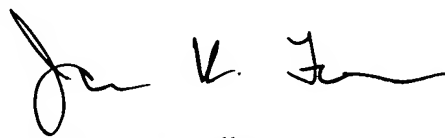
Applicant is in the process of preparing the necessary Declaration that addresses all three issues ((a)-(c)) raised by the Board, and Applicant expects to file the Declaration within about a month of the filing of this paper. In the event that the Examiner acts upon this paper prior to receipt of the Declaration, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the filing of the Declaration.

Additionally, Applicant has also added new dependent Claim 8, which recites that the elongation at break of the twisted cords ranges from 15.9 to 18.5%. In the Reply Brief (pages 5-6), Applicant argued that the claimed configuration of the twisted cords of a power steering hose, including specific parameters for the intermediate elongation, the elongation at break and the number of twists, produced unexpected results related to the durability of the hose and reduced vibration. In the Decision on Appeal (page 8), the Board indicated that evidence of unexpected results needed to be commensurate in scope with the claims, while referring to the difference between the claimed range of 8 – 19% and the range in Table 1 of 15.9 -18.5% and the difference between the claimed range of the number of twists of 15-30/10cm and the value of 20/10cm found in Table 1. Accordingly, Applicant has added Claim 8, which includes values commensurate in scope with Table 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that allowance of dependent Claim 8.

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